

# WOMEN IN LIBRARIES

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
ALA/SRRT TASK  
FORCE ON WOMEN

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Ed. Kay Cassell

## ALA MIDWINTER PLANS

The Task Force on Women will be holding some of its meetings during Midwinter and summer ALA conferences at the Eleanor Association. The Eleanor Association was founded in 1898 to assist working women in the city of Chicago and to advance women's rights. This year they have initiated a Clearinghouse International for the storage and dissemination of information on all women's programs and to provide an open forum for discussion of these programs.

The Association is located a block from the Palmer House in the Stevens Building, Suite 1819, 16 N. Wabash. (The next newsletter will have a map). The Task Force on Women will meet there on Tuesday, January 20, from 2 - 4 p.m. and a small celebration will follow from 4 - 6 p.m.

The Eleanor Association also has a residence at 1550 N. Dearborn Parkway, very close to public transportation into the Loop. The rates are \$9/day for a single without a private bath and \$11/day for a single with a private bath, this includes breakfast.

There will also be a Task Force meeting at the Palmer House on Sunday night, January 18, from 8:30 - 10:30 p.m. which will involve interaction with Council members. A short business meeting will follow.

From Linda Crowe  
TF on Women Coordinator

## MIDWINTER MEETING OF JEWISH CAUCUS

The Jewish Caucus meeting during Midwinter is scheduled for Tuesday night, January 20, 1975, at 8:30 p.m. The local coordinator is Marilyn Rapp, 2606 W. Balmoral, Chicago, Ill. 60625. A room with seating capacity for 100 is reserved.

Kumsitz with the largest Midwinter minyan yet.

From Renee Feinberg  
JC coordinator

TFW BULLETIN BOARD - A REPORT

The SRRT Task Force on Women's biweekly joblist, the TFW BULLETIN BOARD, is entering its second year of publication. The BULLETIN BOARD is intended as an affirmative action oriented publication of above-beginning level library job vacancies, which is sent mainly to women subscribers who are in the market for supervisory, management, administrative or specialist library positions.

As of July 15, 87 institutions had listed 206 jobs. More specifically, 73 academic or research libraries sent 184 job notices for publication; 5 public libraries listed 7 positions; 2 special libraries sent in 3 notices; there were 4 listings from 3 other types of library-oriented organizations and 8 job notices of a non-library nature. The lack of public and special library listings is of particular concern--attributable most likely to limited time or resources for nationwide recruitment by smaller libraries or a lack of awareness about the existence of the TFW BULLETIN BOARD on the part of library trustees or administrators. It possibly indicates a less well-defined commitment toward affirmative action on the part of some public libraries as compared with their academic counterparts.

Publication of job notices in the BB is free to employers TFW requests that the listings include adequate information about the job, including an indication of the salary range and an application deadline.

Liz Dickinson, who got the publication off the ground for TFW, reports a triumvirate of women from Philadelphia will take over as co-editors effective immediately. They are Janette Neal, Holly Lucas and Meg Randall. Women or institutions that wish to subscribe for 6 months (12 issues) are requested to send a \$5 donation to: Janette Neal, Education, Philosophy and Religion Dept., Free Library of Philadelphia, Logan Square, Philadelphia, PA 19103. Employers should send job notices for listing to the same address.

From Liz Dickinson  
Hennepin County Library (MN)

1974 PRECONFERENCE VIDEOTAPE

The videotape of the Preconference on the Status of Women in Librarianship, July 1974, sponsored by the AIA/SRRT Task Force on Women is available for duplication by the Brooklyn College Television and Radio Center.

If you are interested in having a duplicate made, please forward either a 3/4" U-Matic cassette or a 1/2" Panasonic cartridge or a 1/2" reel to reel tape to: Professor Renee Feinberg, Brooklyn College Library, Midwood Campus, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11210.

MIDWEST ACADEMY

The Midwest Academy is a unique training school for organizers and social activists. For the past two years, the Chicago-based Academy has been training organizers and leaders for a wide variety of social and political action groups--including many women's

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organizations. Training is structured around the principles of direct action organizing: building mass-based, democratically-controlled organizations which can improve people's lives, give people a sense of their own collective power and alter the relations of power. Intensive two-week sessions (held four times a year) focus on theoretical, strategic and "how to" aspects of organizing. The Academy also offers shorter (three- or four-day) workshops on organizing for people working full-time in non-movement jobs and one-day sessions on single topics like research, fundraising and publicity. The Academy is accepting applications now for two-week training sessions beginning January 11, April 11 and July 4. Academy trainers are also available for consultation and workshops through individual contracts with organizations across the country. For more information, contact: Heather Booth, Midwest Academy, 600 W. Fullerton, Chicago, Ill. 60614.

From SPOKEWOMAN 9/15/75  
 (1959 E. 73 St.,  
 Chicago, Ill. 60649)

BOOK REVIEW

Margaret Myers and Mayra Scarborough. Women in librarianship: Melvil's Rib Symposium. New Brunswick, N.J.: Rutgers University Press, 1975. \$4.95. paperbound.

Melvil Dewey knew how to save a buck. He realized that educated young ladies from the nation's women's colleges and finishing schools provided a refined, intelligent and cheap source of labor for the always under-budgeted American libraries. Thus, from Melvil's rib sprang our women's profession.

Women in Librarianship: Melvil's Rib Symposium, the product of a 1973 Rutgers-sponsored program, explores numerous historical, psychological and sociological themes surrounding the status of women in librarianship. Harold Wooster's fable "How the library changed its spots--an ain't so story" is particularly delightful. Anita Schiller's "Sex and library careers" shatters all those misconceptions we picked up in library school about our founding library fathers. "Dreams and dilemmas of being a woman today," the symposium paper presented by psychologist Carolyn Wood Sherif, adds a refreshing interdisciplinary excursion into the problem of female stereotypes and women's self image. Sherif suggests that the long list of studies that uncuously pronounce that women are weaker, less stable and less likely to hold down a job than men may not be grounded on solid, scientific evidence.

Herman Greenberg's "Sex discrimination against women in libraries," is the only disappointing paper in the bunch. He takes a somewhat less than convincing 'how we done it good at the Free Library of Philadelphia' approach. Greenberg makes his confident pronouncement on the Free Library's state of affirmative action grace partly on the basis of interviews he conducted with women staff members: "Without exception, these female librarians when interviewed could not cite a single case of discrimination against women at the Free

Library..." (p. 55). Of course not. What woman in her right mind would 'fess up to the library's chief personnel administrator? From his own observation Greenberg feels women librarians have a higher rate of turnover and accumulate fewer years of experience than their male counterparts. Well, I wonder.--And so did a number of conference participants judging by the lively and insightful dialogue reported in the discussion section of the symposium report.

Women in librarianship is particularly well edited compared to other conference proceedings. Myers and Scarborough took care to include footnotes for the papers. They have reprinted a handy guide to "Federal laws and regulations concerning sex discrimination in educational institutions, October, 1972", originally from the Project on the Status and Education of Women of the Association of American Colleges. The editors have added notes to help the user to decipher the legal jargon. Myers' comprehensive bibliography of women in librarianship with citations through 1974 is also reprinted here.

Curiously, subject tracings are omitted from the CIP data for this title. I would recommend that libraries use the following headings when they add the work to their professional collections: 1. Women librarians. 2. Sexism in librarianship. 3. Affirmative action in libraries--United States. 4. Women--Psychology.

(Un)remarkably, CIP/IC neglected to make an added entry for the volume's most memorable tag: Melvil's Rib Symposium. An added title is definitely in order on the cataloging data.

From Liz Dickinson  
Hennepin County Library (MN)

#### NYLA WOMEN AT WORK

For the past nine months the New York Library Association has had an Ad-Hoc Committee on the Concerns of Women. The Committee was established by NYLA President, Peter Paulson, in response to criticism of sexist programming at the last NYLA Conference and in recognition of International Women's Year. The Committee has planned a program for this year's NYLA conference which will concentrate on the library as a feminist resource, assertiveness training, practical politics, library school curricula, and the isolated woman librarian. In addition to the program, the Committee will have a booth in the exhibit area which will feature women librarians who have volunteered to share their expertise with others in such areas as administration, sexism in children's and young adult literature, unionism for professionals, school library problems and programming for women. The Committee also plans to survey discrimination in New York libraries during the next year. For further information on the Committee's activities, contact Kay Cassell.

#### PERSONALS

Congratulations to Betty Turock on her position as director of the Montclair (N.J.) Public Library.

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### KIT ON SEXISM

Project on Sex Equality in Guidance Opportunities (SEGO) has developed a booklet listing materials on sexism which gives the price of each item and where to obtain it. The booklet is free by writing to Mary Ellen Verheyden-Hilliard, SEGO director, American Personnel and Guidance Ass., 1607 New Hampshire Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.

### WEAL CLEARINGHOUSE ON SEX DISCRIMINATION IN SPORTS

Women's Equity Action League (WEAL) has established a National Clearinghouse on Sex Discrimination in Sports to serve as a center of information on current activities around the country. The Clearinghouse needs information on studies, news articles and other materials documenting sex discrimination in athletics and data on the funding of athletics. Contact: WEAL Fund National Clearinghouse on Sex Discrimination in Sports, National Press Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20045.

### PAPERS ON MINORITY WOMEN AND HIGHER EDUCATION

The Project on Women of the Association of American Colleges (1818 R Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009) is publishing a series of papers entitled "Minority Women and Higher Education". The second paper in the series deals with the current status of Spanish-speaking women in higher education and the third is a selected reading list on Black and Spanish-speaking women in higher education. Both papers are available free from the Project on Women.

### NEW PUBLICATIONS

An annotated bibliography, "Women and Health Care" is now available from the Program on Women at Northwestern University, 619 Emerson St., Evanston, Ill. 60210.

Margins, a Review of Little Magazines and Small Press Books, has published an issue on lesbian feminist writing and publishing. The issue is a most interesting and useful one. It includes an annotated checklist of lesbian feminist resources, an article on lesbian magazines, reviews of lesbian poetry, an article on lesbian literature including pulp lesbian literature and discussions of lesbian theater and photography. This issue 8/1975 of Margins can be purchased for \$1.25 by writing Tom Montag, 2912 N. Hackett, Milwaukee, WI 53211.

The Business and Professional Women's Foundation has published a bibliographic review "Women Workers: Homemakers and Volunteers" which surveys the many recent materials on the broad social questions of establishing an economic value for work in the home or in volunteer activities, credentialing some home and volunteer work for academic or employment credit and extending certain employment benefits to homemakers and volunteers. The literature surveyed in the annotated bibliography covers 82 recent publications, with a short description of the conclusion in each. The bibliography was compiled by Jenrose Felmley, BPW Foundation Librarian and is available for \$1.00 from the Foundation, 2012 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

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"U.S. Working Women," a graphic report on the changing role of women in the labor force, has been released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics as part of the U.S. Department of Labor's contribution to International Women's Year. The book contains 56 charts which presents a wide array of data on the characteristics of working women and the extraordinary changes in their status during the last 25 years. Information on employment and unemployment, marital and family status, income and education are included. Order copies for \$1.75 from the Supt. of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

The Unabashed Librarian (GPO Box 2631, New York, N.Y. 10001) has reprinted in its Spring 1975 issue (No. 15) "Part of a Series of Booklists For and About Women" which were compiled by the Burnaby Public Library in British Columbia. The booklists include health and well-being for women, feminist herstory and theory, children's books, women at work, fiction, multi-media, creativity and alternative to marriage. All items are annotated. An excellent contribution to bibliographic resources on women.

Patricia Ward has published an article on "Women and Librarianship in 1975" in the April 1975 Library Association Record (Great Britain). She notes a tendency of younger women to continue their careers without a break and the large number of qualified women in the profession but notes that there are few women in top administrative posts. (Britain or the U.S. - the same story!)

According to a recent article by Linda Ambrose in FAMILY PLANNING/POPULATION REPORTER ("Discrimination Against Pregnant Students Remaining in School," February, 1975), more than 600,00 girls between the ages of fifteen and nineteen gave birth in 1973. Despite the increased availability of abortion and birth control services, Ambrose notes that "pregnancy is disproportionately unplanned and unwanted among adolescents" and says that the traditional policy of expelling or quietly excluding pregnant teenagers from schools adds the heavy burden of inadequate education to the direct social and economic pressures they must inevitably face. Reprints of the Ambrose article are available for 35¢ each from the Alan Guttmacher Institute, Suite 903, 1666 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.

"Constitutional Aspects of the Right to Limit Childbearing. A Report of the United States Commission on Civil Rights." (U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Washington, D.C. 20425. 1975. No price given). This report analyzes the threats to the First, Ninth and Fourteenth Amendments contained in proposed constitutional amendments advocated by right to life forces.

CROW (Center for Research on Women) Quarterly Newsletter (Polya Hall 106, Sanford University, Stanford, CA 94305. No price given). A new communication about women's issues and research being done; promises to be a multi-disciplinary clearinghouse for ideas and information.

The Feminist Press has published a pamphlet by Phyllis Arlow and Merle Froschl entitled "Women in the High School Curriculum; a Review of High School U.S. History and English Literature Texts".

The report is a real eye opener for anyone who hasn't taken a look at the texts high school students are using. In this day of some degree of raised consciousness to the women's issue women are still almost totally ignored in these texts. Copies of this report are available from The Feminist Press, SUNY/College at Old Westbury, Box 334, Old Westbury, N.Y. 11568 for \$1.25. Most libraries will want a copy of this important study. It would also be useful in library school book selection courses.

Organize! A Working Women's Handbook is a publication of the Union WAGE Education Committee (P.O. Box 462, Berkley, CA 94701) It includes information on how to organize a union, writing and negotiating your union contract, learning the rules and building a caucus, parliamentary procedure, how to do your shop newsletter and a bibliography. Copies are \$2.50 plus 25¢ postage, 10 or more are \$2 plus postage.

Women and Health is a new bi-monthly academic journal designed to share research and ideas on policy, structure and issues in women's health care delivery, women as health workers, female physiology and the content of women's medical care and on women as health care consumers. Contact: Women and Health, Biological Sciences Program, SUNY/College at Old Westbury, Old Westbury, N.Y. 11568.

The New Woman's Survival Sourcebook has just been published by Knopf(1975) for \$5. Take a look at the nice two page spread on librarians.

#### NATIONAL WOMEN'S FILM CIRCUIT

The Iris Film Festival held in August 1975 in Washington, D.C. presented nearly 100 films by some 75 women filmmakers, inaugurating the National Women's Film Circuit which will begin its tour of the U.S. this fall. Iris Films was formed to distribute, promote and produce films by and about women while training women in all these areas. For further information, contact Iris Films East, P.O. Box 2934, Main City Station, Washington, D.C. 20013. To be added to the special mailing list and receive a discount card for admissions send \$5. For information about production and related questions, contact Iris Films West, P.O. Box 26463, Edendale Station, Los Angeles, CA 90026.

#### FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks for all your notes and comments. I really do appreciate feedback. Please keep on sending me material for publication - articles, letters, news notes, etc. Deadline for the next newsletter is December 20.

Subscriptions are \$2 for individuals and \$5 for institutions. Make checks payable to the ALA/SRRT Task Force on Women.

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